



Dempster
Internal Drainage Board

**MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27TH
JANUARY 2025 AT 24 INNOVATION DRIVE**

PRESENT					
<i>ELECTED</i>	Mr J Phillipson	Mr J Cowling	Mr M Backhouse	Mr P Chantry	Mr P Jacklin
	J Frost	M Johnson			
<i>APPOINTED</i>					
APOLOGIES					
<i>ELECTED</i>	Cllr N Coultish	Mr R Hall			
<i>APPOINTED</i>					
ABSENT					
<i>ELECTED</i>					
<i>APPOINTED</i>					
In Attendance					
Officers		Mr A McLachlan – Chief Executive Officer			
		Mrs A Larkin – Director of Policy & Finance			
		Mr R Towse – Director of Operations			
		Miss L Smith – Board Secretary			

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1881. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies.

1881.1. Apologies had been received from Cllr N Coultish and Mr Robert Hall.

1882. Declarations of Interest

1882.1. None declared.

1883. Additional Agenda Items

1883.1. None raised.

1884. Health and Safety

1884.1. No matters were reported.

1885. Natural Environment

1885.1. No matters were reported.

1886. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

1886.1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 June 2024 were reviewed by members.

1886.2. With reference to minute 1874.9 – Mr J Phillipson commented that it implies the board were happy to enter into negotiations, and suggested the word “negotiations” be replaced with “discussions”, to which all members agreed. **Action BdSec.**

1886.3. Mr. J. Cowling asked why potential amalgamation had been discussed with Reedness and Swinefleet prior to the Dempster meeting. The CEO clarified that it had not been, and that that he had consulted with their Chairman on a matter that he intended to raise with other Boards, and that any such discussion with a Chairman falls entirely within his authority and discretion.

1886.4. It was PROPOSED by Mr Chantry and SECONDED by Mr Jacklin and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that, subject the amendment of minute 1874.9, the Board approve these minutes as a true record of that meeting.

1887. Matters Arising

1887.1. With reference to minute 1862.7, the DO advised that a new plotter/scanner was awaited, with the facility to scan historic files.

1888. Minutes from the ADOC Consortium Meeting

1888.1. The minutes from the ADOC Consortium meeting held on 25th November 2024 were noted by members.

1889. Financial Position

- 1889.1. The CEO reported that an estimated outturn position of +£17k was expected, based on current data.
- 1889.2. He confirmed that the bid to the 2024 IDB Fund had secured just over £7k for extraneous electricity costs and a further £7k for pump repair costs, both incurred as a result of the winter storms in 2023/24, making up the majority of the surplus. This would put the Board in a more positive financial position.
- 1889.3. The Chair asked what the expected outturn would have been without the windfall funding, to which the CEO suggested around a £3k surplus.
- 1889.4. The DO did clarify that this was an estimate in relation to electricity costs, and not the final financial position.
- 1889.5. Mr M Johnson queried if the Board were in contract with an electricity supplier, to which the CEO advised that after conducting market research over the summer, Woldmarsh remained the best procurement option, but this would be reviewed again next summer.
- 1889.6. The DO advised that a bid had been resubmitted for piling works under the IDB Fund "Tranche 2" programme, but unfortunately this had not been successful.
- 1889.7. Mr Chantry queried where the portable pump would be based. The DO advised that it would be a trailer pump but placed on a concrete pad with pipework and fencing at the Swang PS site.
- 1889.8. Mr M Backhouse queried if mobile pumps would be shared amongst the consortium. The DO commented that he expected this to happen in terms of mutual aid arrangements.
- 1889.9. The DO confirmed that the pumps have a capacity of approximately 560m³.
- 1889.10. The Board discussed storage and safety when not in use.

1890. Budget & Rate Setting

- 1890.1. The CEO presented the proposed budget along with a copy of the 2023/24 accounts for reference and confirmed minor changes to the valuation presented in the board papers.
- 1890.2. The Chair noted that the serviceability programme had increased substantially from last year, to which the DO advised he would like to repair more slips with piling and regarding works.
- 1890.3. The CEO advised that the proposed budget increases the rate by 3.77% and suggested approving a rate of 16.6p£ to meet an estimated budget requirement of £69,016.
- 1890.4. Mr P Chantry suggested a larger rate increase to secure a greater reserves figure.
- 1890.5. Mr M Johnson noted that it had been highlighted in the media, that councils had raised concerns with the levy increases and asked if it was this area only or across the country.

- 1890.6. The CEO advised that there is currently an investigation in relation to the funding and governance of IDBs across the country and that a special interest group has formed to lobby parliament in relation to raising levy payments.
- 1890.7. Mr M Backhouse suggested the board, in setting the rate, remain closer to inflation.
- 1890.8. It was PROPOSED by Mr M Backhouse that the Board approve a rate of 16.6p£ to meet an estimated budget requirement of £69,016.
- 1890.9. It was PROPOSED by Mr J Phillipson and SECONDED by Mr M Johnson that the Board approve a rate of 18p£ to meet an estimated budget requirement of £73,905. Mr J Cowling expressed his support for this vote.
- 1890.10. Mr M Backhouse retracted his original proposal of approving a rate of 16.6p£.
- 1890.11. It was PROPOSED by Mr P Chantry and SECONDED by Mr Frost that the Board approve a rate of 17.5p£ to meet an estimated budget requirement of £72,352.
- 1890.12. It was resolved by majority vote of 4 to 3 that the rate be raised to 17.5p£ to meet an estimated budget requirement of £72,352.

1891. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled

- 1891.1. Members reviewed the schedule of invoices paid for the period April to December 2024.
- 1891.2. Mr P Chantry asked about the Schnider invoice, to which the DO confirmed this was recovered in Tranche 1 funding; there had been a fault in the telemetry unit at Swang PS.
- 1891.3. He added there will be an annual charge of £539, which pays for the software licensing and sim cards. The DO also advised that there had been an upgrade this year, which had mostly been met through Tranche 1 funding.
- 1891.4. It was PROPOSED by Mr J Cowling and SECONDED by Mr M Backhouse and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note and approve the record of Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled, totalling £44,978.29 (net) for the last financial quarter.

1892. Conclusion of Annual Audit

- 1892.1. The Board's External Auditors PKF Littlejohn completed their annual audit of the Board and reported the following:

“Section 1, Assertion 1 has been incorrectly completed, due to the Board identifying as high risk with regards to reserve levels in the case of an exceptional event. This is consistent with the Internal Auditor's response to Internal Control Objective D”.

1893. Internal Auditor

- 1893.1. It was PROPOSED by Mr J Frost and SECONDED by Mr P Chantry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board appoint Northern Internal Audit Services to provide internal audit

services for the financial year 2025/26, upon being satisfied of the provider's independence, competence, and proposed programme of work.

1893.2. Mr M Johnson highlighted the auditor's report had not taken into consideration the boards outstanding financial commitments.

1893.3. The CEO highlighted that the auditor does remain concerned with the level of Board reserves. Mr Chantry recognised the board needs to take balance between public funds and boards reserves.

1894. Drainage Rates

1894.1. The DPF reported that all income had been received.

1894.2. The Chair queried whether Natural England should be paying drainage rates. The DPF confirmed that the land was not classed as agricultural and therefore not liable for drainage rates.

1895. Planning & Development – Q3 (October – December 2024)

Planning Summary

1895.1. 24/02608/PLF – South Park Road, Goole – extended parking area and access road. No objection following the submission of drainage details.

1895.2. 24/01635/PLF – Manor Road, Goole – erection of 5 self-build dwellings. No objection subject to Yorkshire Water approval for surface water discharge to sewer.

1896. Maintenance

1896.1. The DO reported that all requested maintenance had been completed, more than planned as it was necessary. There were no specific plans in place for the coming season. The DO was aware that there had been comment in relation to the contractors this season and was of the opinion that some works could be improved, however there were certain mitigations in place. He commented that the pool of experienced operators was reducing, and operators will improve through experience.

1896.2. Mr J Phillipson and the Chair commented that most works had been completed to a high standard.

1896.3. Mr Chantry asked if there would be summer spraying; the DO advised that the board had a contractor who had completed Black Drain this year and has done a good job, but it needs to be timed well with other maintenance works.

1896.4. Mr Chantry requested someone look at the pumps, bolts in the flanges, which had been started but not completed.

1896.5. Regarding badgers on the railway syphon, DO has not heard anything back from network rail in relation to this.

1897. Policies

1897.1. Board confirmed the review of policies.

1898. Date of Future Meetings

Monday 23rd June – Full Board Meeting

Wednesday 16th July – Drifffield Show

Tuesday 25th November – ADA Conference (London)

Monday 1st December – ADOC Consortium Committee

Tuesday 2nd December – ADA AGM (online)

Monday 26th January – Full Board Meeting

1898.1. The Board thanked the asset management team for securing Defra funding.

1898.2. Mr M Johnson queried if funds for a small tank, the CEO advise this would be looked at June refresh meeting.